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THE GREAT MOSQUITO.

ONE of the old legends of the Iroquois related to a monster whose diminutive descendants are a torment yet, — the Great Mosquito. The story is very simply told in David Cusick's "History of the Six Nations," and is here quoted verbatim : —

"About this time a great musqueto invaded the fort Onondaga ; the musqueto was mischievous to the people, it flew about the fort with a long stinger, and sucked the blood a number of lives ; the warriors made several oppositions to expel the monster, but failed ; the country was invaded until the Holder of the Heavens was pleased to visit the people ; while he was visiting the king at the fort Onondaga, the musqueto made appearance as usual and flew about the fort, the Holder of the Heavens attacked the monster, it flew so rapidly that he could hardly keep in sight of it, but after a few days chase the monster began to fail ; he chased on the borders of the great lakes towards the sun-setting, and round the great country ; at last he overtook the monster and kill it near the salt lake Onondaga, and the blood became small musquetoës."

In Clark's "Onondaga," two monsters stood on opposite banks of the Seneca River, destroying the passing Indians. Hiawatha soon killed one, but the other was pursued until slain by Onondaga lake. He threw up sand-hills in his dying struggles, and the small mosquitoes, rose in clouds from his decaying body. Another version differs from this only in bringing all the Cayugas and Onondagas against the monsters, and destroying them after heavy loss.

As Mr. Horatio Hale has well observed, there has been a confusion of Hi-a-wat-ha with Ta-oun-ya-wat-ha, the Holder of the Heavens, and the Onondagas certainly now identify their deliverer with the latter. Places connected with the story are still pointed out. On the Tuscarora reservation is a large stone where the Holder of the Heavens rested during the long pursuit. Two depressions appear ; one where his body reclined, and another where he leaned upon his elbow. Chief Abram Hill told me he had seen the tracks of the pursuer and pursued, a little south of Syracuse, where the Onondagas kept them fresh not long since. He said those of the monster were twenty inches long, bird-like, and could be traced for twenty rods.

W. M. Beauchamp.